



*Learning from the past to protect the future.*

**Alabama Department of Public Health  
State Team Meeting Minutes  
Montgomery, AL  
April 21, 2016**

**State Team Members Present:**

Melanie Bridgeforth (Voices of AL Children)  
Harold Brown (Proxy-Commissioner Nancy Buckner-AL  
Dept of Human Resources)  
Richard Burleson (ADPH Staff) (Proxy-Thomas Miller,  
M.D.- State Health Officer)  
Joseph Godfrey (Member of Clergy)  
Acquanetta Knight (Proxy-Commissioner Jim Perdue-AL  
Dept of Mental Health)  
Sallye Longshore (Private Citizen)  
Mary Murphy (Prescott House Children's Advocacy Center)  
Gina South (AL Network of Children's Advocacy Centers)  
Michael Taylor, M.D. (UAB Dept of Peds Child Abuse Peds  
Division)  
Jerry Williams (Private Citizen)

**Guests/Staff Present:**

Aretha Bracy (ADPH Staff)\  
Betsy Cagle (ADPH Staff)  
Cathy Molchan Donald (ADPH Staff)  
Cristie Duhan (AL Network of Children's  
Advocacy Centers)  
Bob Hinds (ADPH Staff)  
Andrea Love (ADPH Staff)  
Xuejen Shen (ADPH Staff)  
Qun Zheng (ADPH Staff)

**Conference Call:**

Christy Cain (AL Children First)  
Wendy Caraway (ADPH Staff)  
Sheriff Bill Franklin (AL Sheriff's Association)  
Marian Loftin (Private Citizen)  
Kathy Monroe, M.D. (Medical Association of AL)  
Chris Newlin (Private Citizen)  
Chief Steven Parrish (AL Association of Chiefs of Police)  
Melissa Peters, M.D. (Children's Hospital of AL)  
Sheriff Bobby Timmons (AL Sheriff's Association)  
Debra Williams, M.D. (AL Academy of Pediatrics)  
Bill Yates (Proxy-Gregory Davis, M.D.- Jefferson County  
Coroner/Medical Examiner)

**Call to Order**

On April 21, 2016, at approximately 1:00 PM at the Alabama Industrial Development Training Center in Montgomery, Alabama, the Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team meeting was called to order by Aretha Bracy.

**Welcome of Members and Guests**

Ms. Aretha Bracy welcomed everyone and introductions were made by those in attendance.

## **Old Business**

### **State Team Membership Update**

Ms. Bracy reported two vacant seats; Dr. Steven Dunton from the Alabama Department of Forensic Science and the vacancy for Family Practice Physicians. She also recognized four new government appointees; Mary Murphy who represents the Prescott House Children's Advocacy Center, Jannah Bailey of Child Protect, Michael Taylor, M.D. from the UAB Department of Pediatrics, and Melanie Bridgeforth representing VOICES for Alabama's Children.

### **Approval of Minutes**

With a quorum of members being present, the minutes for the January 21, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

### **Case Status Update**

Ms. Bracy reviewed the Case Status and Team Performance Report with updates. She also explained the process of entering cases in the Child Death Review online database and reporting for the case status report. Mr. Jerry Williams recommended the coroners be included in CDR meetings and how they should stress the importance of team performance to their local coordinators.

### **Public Health Educator Report**

Ms. Bracy announced that former Public Health Educator Folashade Ayanwale has accepted another position and a new staff member will be coming aboard soon.

### **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Update**

Ms. Bracy reported that SADD National is now under new leadership and requires that all state chapters sign an Affiliation Agreement as well as other program changes. Because of the changes, specifically imposing a membership fee for student participation, CDR will continue its involvement with SADD activities, but transition to a support role. CDR has reached out to other individuals or entities to accept the role as liaison between SADD National and Alabama chapters.

### **CPS Clinics**

CDR administers the statewide Child Passenger Restraint Program and provides oversight for five fitting stations that distribute child seats to qualifying families. Certified technicians provide training on proper installation and checks for child seats. Safe Kids Montgomery is one of the five fitting stations and child seat checks and installations are held monthly.

### **Urkeys2drive Update**

Ms. Bracy reported that three teen driver safety events are scheduled for later this year in year in Bessemer, Montgomery, and Florence. The event includes an interactive educational day with speakers and breakout sessions on topics emphasizing best practices in teen driver safety.

## **New Business**

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Christy Cain reported that we are approximately 85 million dollars short of funding for Medicaid and she explained how Alabama Children First has started the “Hashtag I am Medicaid” campaign to humanize Medicaid. They have rehabbed toward Medicaid because it is a reminder of how vital healthcare is. In the legislative session Senator Clyde Chambliss suggested that students in violation of the GDL should be fined 200 dollars and the parents, if aware, should be fined 500 dollars. Ms. Cain proceeded to discuss child abuse bills and the Winston Law.

### **Alabama Child Abuse Medical System Presentation**

Dr. Michael Taylor explained how services may not continue due to cuts in Medicaid. The goal is to get a Child Abuse Medical System in Alabama.

### **Tentative 2016 Meeting Dates**

- Thursday, July 21, 2016\*
- Thursday, October 20, 2016\*

\* The October meeting date could change to coincide with the biennial training conference.

### **Open Discussion**

Ms. Melanie Bridgeforth inquired about vehicular deaths and their causes. Reverend Joseph Godfrey requested information on drug and alcohol related deaths. Ms. Bracy reported that plans are underway for the 2016 Biennial Training conference and more information will be shared as plans are developed. Staff presented at the International Symposium on Child Abuse in Huntsville and the Coroners Conference in Orange Beach.

### **Executive Session (if necessary)**

An executive session was not called during this meeting.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further items on the agenda and no further discussion requested, without objection, the meeting was adjourned.